

SECURITY INFORMATION

EGQA-4701/1
19110152

INTERROGATION SUMMARY

of EGQA-4701/1 13P

Gerhardt BARTS alias Guenther IRMANN
alias Gerhardt IRMANN alias Guenther BERTS
alias Heinz HANDEL, cover name NIKOLAI

Language: German

Date: 13 November 1952
Time: 0930-1215,
1315-1400 and
2130-2330 hours

Subject was further interrogated about his mission to BERLIN.

beg. Oct 1944

The party were equipped with automatic parachutes and the aircraft in which they were transported was a Douglas machine. Their equipment was parachuted down after they had packed in the metal containers. The reception committee of Yugoslav partisans guided them to the Russian liaison officer, whose name Subject believed was Major FORTOV.

Mid-Oct 1944

The party remained in GROSSECKEL for about a fortnight and then were conducted by partisan guides to the Yugoslav-Austrian border in the neighborhood of KLACHFURT. They went on foot and it took them a fortnight to reach the border. They reached the railway at a small station in the neighborhood of KLACHFURT, took a train to that city, and thence via VIENNA and GROSSECKEL they traveled to BERLIN. Throughout the journey they traveled separately, although on the same train.

beg. Nov 1944

On arrival in BERLIN Subject and FLECKEL went to FLECKEL's parents, who lived in BERLIN-GRUNDFURCHEN. The street in which they lived was a side street of the Bert Strasse. Subject stayed only two days and from there moved to FLECKEL's married sister, Frau FLECKEL, who with her husband, Erwin, lived at SCHNEIDER near BERLIN. Liaison between Subject,

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VIECKEL and ~~VIECKEL~~ was maintained through VIECKEL's mother and sister.

Subject stated that the purpose of the mission on which he had been dispatched was the assassination or otherwise rendering harmless of (Gen) VLASSOV. They were, however, completely unsuccessful, as shortly after arrival in BERLIN and before the party could get organized, VLASSOV moved to PRAGUE, to which city they were unable to travel.

Questioned about how Subject communicated with MOSCOW, he stated that he can no longer remember the type of code he used nor can he recall the times of transmission or the call signs. The only thing he knows now is that reception and transmission took place in an eleven-day cycle.

Mid-Nov 1944

Subject stated that in view of the fact that the journey to BERLIN took so much longer than had been expected, he had to wait several days in BERLIN before he could send a message notifying MOSCOW of their arrival. He seems to remember that the text given to him read somewhat like this:

"All friends well and arrived safely." This message was then enciphered and sent off. On that occasion he received no message except an acknowledgment that he had been heard. Shortly afterwards Subject moved from the ~~REINHOLD~~ to an underground Communist, Walter ~~REINHOLD~~, BERLIN-KAMEN, Teichweg. The wireless set remained in the ~~REINHOLD~~'s apartment.

X
Walter Vieckel at Germany
1944 member of Communist
Underground (Assistance and
Spies and Built []
[]

Reg. Jan 1945

Wireless set broke down and was buried in a waterproof sack in ~~REINHOLD~~'s garden. After that incident Subject engaged in sabotage, obtaining aid and information from underground Communists within the Volksturm.

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7 Mar 1945

Subject moved quarters again and lived with Franz Ilse LIEBHART in BERLIN-KAROW, name of street forgotten. Franz LIEBHART is the mother of Lore STEINEL, the wife of Karl STEINEL, who lives in BERLIN-MARIENBURG, Siedlung Waldesruh, Karl Heise Strasse. Karl STEINEL has become one of the closest friends of Subject. He now holds the position of chief of the Kader Abtg. at the Landesvorstand of the FDGB GROSS-BERLIN.

Reg. Apr 1945

6. St. pol. c. 9. g. 1945
1945 Communist relations
in Berlin - Blankenburg
Association with Gilbert Burt

Subject stayed with Franz LIEBHART for a few weeks only and then moved to the mother of Georg THIELE, (Franz) LAMMERS, BERLIN-BLANKENBURG, Radlsburgerstrasse. Among the saboteurs with whom Subject came into touch during this period was a Czech national, Joschka AMI, and another man, a German national, Karl STEINEL, BERLIN-BLANKENBURG, who very ably supported Subject with food stuffs and money.

20 Apr 1945

Subject was captured by Russian troops and locked up. On his insistence he was taken before the officer commanding the detachment and explained as well as he could his position. The officer provided Subject with a guard and Subject went in search of THIELE. During his wanderings he was picked up by a staff officer who did not bother to listen to Subject's explanation and ordered him to be taken to a P/W cage. He remained there for four days and eventually succeeded to be taken before the CG, who spoke good German. To him Subject explained fully his position. Thereupon this officer took him to a high headquarters where Subject once again had to explain himself in great detail. A statement was taken and Subject was told that he would be confined at headquarters until his statement could be checked. After a few days Georg THIELE arrived at that headquarters.

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A high-ranking staff officer then explained to them that they would be put into a special cage where SEDAP members were held. They were ordered to act as SPs to find out all about these people. THIRKE and Subject decided not to do anything about this order and when they were taken out of the cage - usually once a day - seemingly for interrogation, they always reported to the officer that they could not get into conversation with any of their co-prisoners, who were highly suspicious. After a week in this cage they were set free and taken to some barracks at FINKFURTH near BERLIN, where Russian troops were quartered.

17 May 1945

On that day they were taken to KARLSHOFST at the headquarters of the frontier guards and MVD. There they were joined by one Heinz KUNDEL and the following day THIRKE, KUNDEL and Subject were flown to MOSCOW. On arrival at the airport in MOSCOW they were met and taken to MVD headquarters at Desherjinski Flats. Subject was roughly able to identify the building on the MOSCOW town plan as being adjacent to the building marked 104.

At the headquarters they were received by a man whom Subject had seen during the previous stay in MOSCOW, when one day he had come with Tamara and brought them the equipment for their mission to BERLIN. They were given sleeping accommodations at the headquarters and next morning, they were taken to a dacha in the neighborhood of BIKOMO. Several people were quartered there, among them the present chief of police of LEIPZIG, Hans WINKELMAN. Tamara and the man who had received them at the headquarters (Subject believes his name to be Rudolf) were generally looking after them.

20 May 1945,

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After a few days' rest Subject and THIELE were asked to write out full reports on the RUSSIAN mission and on their activities. During that time they were not allowed to visit town or leave the immediate vicinity of the datcha. After they had handed in their reports they were told that they would be checked in BERLIN and Subject believes that Major FISCHER was sent to GERMANY to check their account.

24 Jun 1945

Subject and Heinz MUELLER went to the Kulturpark at BYENNA where at a dance they made the acquaintance of two girls, one of them being Veronika Fedorovna ~~MILKINA~~. Subject ~~RUSSIAN girl, 24 years old, now wife of~~ and Veronika became very friendly and now that Subject ~~quarantined Barth (201-24773)~~ was free to move about, they went frequently into MOSCOW

to attend the theater and concerts. (During his stay in RUSSIA Subject was paid pocket money of 500 Rubles a month.) Subject stated that he disclosed to Tamara his affection for Veronika and asked her whether such an association would not be frowned upon by the authorities, as he did not wish to make trouble for Veronika, whom he hoped to marry. Tamara told him that she would make inquiries with the authorities; a few days later she returned with the message that there was nothing against this association.

21 Aug 1945

Subject, THIELE and MUELLER were repatriated to BERLIN. Before their departure from MOSCOW Subject was told that suitable employment would be found for him in GERMANY. On arrival in BERLIN they were met at the airport and taken to the then SPD headquarters in the Klinkenstrasse (the building is now occupied by offices of the East German state railways). Subject stayed in BERLIN for about a week, and at

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End Aug 1945

was taken via APOLEA to WEIMAR. He was taken into the
Sperrgebiet at WEIMAR where he was interviewed by
(Gen. Maj.) ^{Sidley} ~~POPOV~~. The Gen. questioned Subject about
his past activities and told him that it was intended that
Subject work on behalf of the MVD. Subject agreed to the
suggestion and was introduced to his control officer,
Maj. ^{POPOV} ~~POPOV~~. ^{POPOV} took Subject by car to KREFUR, where
Subject rejoined his parents. Before being allowed to go
home Subject was driven by ^{POPOV} ~~POPOV~~ into the Andreasstrasse
to a place opposite the jail and told him that this would
be the place for future RVs, date and time for the first
RV being arranged.

Reg. Sep 1945

Subject appeared at the first RV and was met by a senior
lieutenant and a female interpreter who told him that
Maj. ^{POPOV} ~~POPOV~~ was unable to see Subject. He was given at

Mid-Sep 1945.

this RV a food parcel and a new RV was arranged for
^{POPOV} ~~POPOV~~ came to this RV and told Subject that no decision
about his employment had yet been made, and gave him the
sum of 5000 Reichsmarks. He was then taken by ^{POPOV} ~~POPOV~~
to the annex of the jail in the Andreasstrasse, where he
was completely equipped with clothing. He was further
told that he should come every ten days to the house where
he had been given food parcels by the female interpreter.

20 Sep 1945

Subject's future wife arrived at KREFUR. Subject reported
her arrival to ^{POPOV} ~~POPOV~~ and told him that he intended to get
married to Veronika very shortly. ^{POPOV} ~~POPOV~~ thereupon told
Subject that he would have to report the facts to WEIMAR.

Mid-Oct 1945

Subject had another RV with ^{POPOV} ~~POPOV~~ who told him that in view
of Subject's living with a Russian woman openly at his
parents in KREFUR, employment by the MVD was out of the
question.

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End Oct 1945

Subject was visited at his parents' home by a Russian officer who told him that he had orders to take Subject and his fiancée to BERLIN. They were driven, accompanied by this officer, to ~~BARBERSBURG~~ near POTSDAM and taken to the quarters of Gen. ~~MAJ. KAGUCHAYEV~~ ^{KAGUCHAYEV}. Subject was closely interviewed by the Gen. and had to write out a very detailed curriculum which was translated by Veronika. They were given a room in ~~KAGUCHAYEV~~ ^{KAGUCHAYEV}'s house and stayed there for over a week. When ~~KAGUCHAYEV~~ ^{KAGUCHAYEV} read in Subject's curriculum that Subject had relatives living in WEIMAR near MARSCH, he showed great interest and told Subject that he would be required to travel to his relatives in WESTERN GERMANY. He was told that in WEIMAR he should endeavor with the help of his relatives to find suitable quarters where people coming from the East Zone could be quartered for a night or two. He was also told to reconnoiter the possibilities of safe frontier crossings. When ~~KAGUCHAYEV~~ ^{KAGUCHAYEV} learned that Subject wanted to get married, ~~KAGUCHAYEV~~ ^{KAGUCHAYEV} obtained official permission for the ceremony. When this was obtained Subject and his fiancée traveled to BERLIN and presented themselves at the consulate, where the permission was vised by the consul. It was on this occasion that Subject for the first time asked for application forms with a view to obtain Russian citizenship.

14 Nov 1945

Subject married Veronika at the registry office in BERLIN-LICHENBERG. After the ceremony they moved to the apartment of ~~PAUL STAPPEL~~ ^{PAUL STAPPEL}, BERLIN-RIESENBERG, where they stayed until 20 or 25 November 1945. From STAPPEL they were collected by the major who had brought them from BERGHEIM to BERLIN

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Aug. 1946

and taken back to KREFUR. There Subject was documented in his real name of BARTH, and a day or two later left for the WESTERN ZONE. He stayed with his relatives at WEIMAR near KASSEL, making also one or two trips into KASSEL. He claims that he was unsuccessful in finding suitable accommodations for future line crossers and shortly before Christmas Subject returned to KREFUR. Subject and his wife moved from Subject's parents to rooms of their own situated in the Bonifaciusstr. Towards the end of January 1946 Subject was told through his wife, who since her arrival had worked at the Konsulatur at KREFUR, that his services were no longer required.

Apr 1946

Subject was without occupation until that time and then attended a one-year's course at the Commercial College at KREFUR. The subjects taught there were commercial arithmetic, shorthand and typing, bookkeeping and other kindred subjects. Subject finished the course in March 1947. Subject stated that during this year he traveled once or twice to the consulate in BERLIN to make inquiries about his citizenship papers; and once he went to WEIMAR and asked for an interview with the chief of the SMA, ~~WOLFGANG WENDEL~~ ^{WOLFGANG WENDEL}, as his wife had been ordered, in view of her marriage to a German, to return to RUSSIA. In consequence of Subject's interview he claims that this order was rescinded.

Apr 1947

Subject, through the intervention of his wife, obtained on completion of his commercial course a trainee job with the SAO Hydwinik Works at KREFUR (a Kali combine). His traineeship came to an end in September 1947 and then he obtained a job in the planning department of the SAO Totachmasch (a combine of precision machine manufacturers). The head of the planning department was a Russian named KISELOV.

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Subject recollected that on the occasion of his visits to the consulate to inquire about his citizenship papers, he saw a number of officials, one of them a man called MINOSOV.

Oct 1948

Subject learned through his wife that the consulate in BERLIN had phoned to the Konsulaturs at BERLIN and asked for Subject to report at the consulate. Believing that it had something to do with his naturalization, Subject and his wife traveled to BERLIN and were seen by Baris Jakowlewich, whose family name at a later date Subject learned was MALEWIKO, (NALIVAIKO) MALEWIKO.

MALEWIKO told Subject that he had read his application papers for naturalization and found them of interest. He told Subject that there was really no valid reason why Subject should be granted citizenship and he suggested that it would be helpful to the naturalization application if Subject, as a sign of his earnest desire to become a Soviet citizen, would perform some services for the USSR. Subject claims that his wife at first was very much against this suggestion which obviously meant that Subject would have to engage in clandestine work. But eventually in discussion with MALEWIKO and her husband she agreed that, as this seemed to be the only way for her husband to obtain naturalization, he should work for MALEWIKO. Apparently MALEWIKO also made an offer of work to Veroshina which Subject claims his wife refused out of hand.

After Subject had agreed to work for MALEWIKO he was told that he and his wife would have to move to BERLIN and that the question of suitable quarters would be taken care of.

End 1948 or Beg. 1949

Subject and his wife moved to BERLIN and were given quarters in the Philippine; this street is not actually within the

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Reg. 1949

compound, but one side of the road was exclusively reserved for Russian quarters.

After Subject had settled down in his quarters he had another talk with Boris at the consulate and it was agreed that Subject would receive a salary of 1000 RM(2) per month. Boris told him that the work he was doing was on behalf of the Foreign Office and if he performed his duties satisfactorily he stood a good chance to be taken on in the Soviet Foreign Service.

Mar 1949-Sep 1950

During this period Subject performed courier services to FRANKFURT and COLOGNE. (See previous interrogation summaries.)

Nov 1950

Subject, his wife having been recalled to MOSCOW in August 1950, on completion of his courier runs was given permission to go on leave to MOSCOW.

Subject was flown from BERLIN to MOSCOW and at the airport was met by his wife and a man named Gregori NIKOLAEVICH who, Subject learned, was an officer of the MVD. Gregori told Subject that as it was not thought advisable that Subject should live with his parents-in-law, quarters had been reserved for him and his wife with a family in the Gruzinsktr. (see MOSCOW town plan J5). During his stay in MOSCOW he would be paid 1000 Rouble per month and be supplied with free food. His leave would last until the new year and from

Jan 1951

he would be required to undergo training in certain subjects.

Jan-Apr 1951

During this time Subject was instructed in W/T practice. He was given a practical tuition in photography, including the use of Leika and Exakta cameras, the photographing of documents, the processing of film and the printing and enlarging

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of positives. He was also taught the rudiments of four different processes of R/W; and lastly, he was made to study a complicated cypher code.

Details of all the above will be covered in separate summaries.

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APPENDIX TO
INTERROGATION SUMMARY

of

13 November 1952

Source:

Source: P-1
to 11

During his stay in MOSCOW, BART was given a short course in photography. He was instructed in the use of the Leika and Exakta cameras and how they were to be used in photographing documents. For this purpose he was shown how to handle a collapsible rig to which cameras had to be fitted. He was also supplied with exposure tables - one for use in daylight and the other for artificial lights. He was also shown how, instead of using a flash bulb, a length of film could be used as a light source by which to take photographs. He was further instructed in the technique of developing, printing and enlarging. He also had to practice removing film from its gelatine base. For that purpose the exposed film is first steeped into glycerine to soften it and then the film is treated with an acetone solution. Subject saw, however, no longer remember the exact makeup of that solution. He stated, however, that a film thus treated can be easily removed from its gelatine base and after it has been dried can be folded up, without cracking, into a very small space. Subject was also instructed in the use of various attachments necessary in document photography.

Subject was further acquainted with various methods of secret writing:

First method: A sheet of paper with a low wood-pulp content is steeped into distilled water, or if not available, into rain water, for ten to fifteen minutes. Afterwards the paper is put on a glass plate and the surplus moisture is pressed out with the aid of a rubber roller. Afterwards with a blunt piece of wood - such as an orange stick - the clandestine message is written by impressing it upon the softened paper. Above and below each clandestine line an innocuous text is written with pencil. Afterwards the completed letter is pressed between suitable heavy objects and left to dry. When the paper is removed from the pressing process, the impressed writing is no longer visible. To make the clandestine writing reappear, the recipient of the message steeps the paper into distilled or rain water with the consequence that

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the paper fibers which have formerly been impressed by writing with a blunt instrument do not swell out to the same extent as those parts of the paper which have not been compressed, and thus the writing becomes visible.

Second method: Again, paper with a low wood-pulp content is used. The paper is steeped for a few seconds in distilled or rain water or, if possible, is simply pulled through a bath containing alcohol. The paper is then dried between two glass plates and kept pressed for forty-eight hours. Next, a steel or preferably gold pen and invisible ink (the composition of which is unknown to Subject) are used for writing. Again, above and below the clandestine lines normal writing is added. In order to bring out the invisible message a piece of cotton wool is wetted in a special liquid (type and composition unknown to Subject), and carefully brushed over the paper. Under a strong light the invisible writing now shows up in a faintly brownish color. Subject stated that the pre-conditioning of the paper with water or alcohol prevents the invisible writing from becoming accidentally visible.

Third method: A book or typewritten text is chosen at random and, with a pointed piece of wood which is steeped in a special solution, dots are put on appropriate letters of the written material to make up the clandestine message. Care must be exercised that the dots are placed on the letters themselves and not on the blanks between the letters. To bring out the marks on the letters the text is brushed over with a special liquid (composition unknown to Subject) which brings out the dots in red color.

Fourth method: An unexposed film is opened in a darkroom, and, with a special liquid, a message is written on the film. This liquid affects the silver nitrate layer on the film and on exposure to daylight those parts of the film which are not written on will turn black, whereas the written text will show up in white.

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